



**Family Gram**  
*CAMP FALLUJAH, IRAQ*

We are settling into the camp and this is a very busy time for the Marines and Sailors of this command. All of us have long days and relaxation is hard to achieve. We are working 18 hour days, 7 days a week, I think highly of all the dedication to our mission demonstrated by all the troops.

The camp is near the city of Fallujah, so you will probably hear the name many times. I can assure everyone that the camp is secure and protected. The camp has many amenities and we are grateful for the pre-existing base here. There is always a boost of morale when one can sit in a comfortable mess hall and enjoy a hot prepared meal.

The Marines and Sailors are in good spirits because they know what they are doing is building a better life for the Iraqi people. They understand why they are here and this understanding is giving them motivation to do their job, in a foreign land away from loved ones. I'm proud to serve with every one of MHG's Marines and Sailors and they have my respect and admiration.

**Col John T. Cummings**  
Commanding Officer, I MHG

**Points of Contact**

- American Red Cross: (760) 757-6877
- Children's Library Programs: (760) 725-5669
- Key Volunteer Coordinator: (760) 763-4785
- Family Readiness Officer: (760) 763-2359

**IMEF INFORMATION HOTLINE**

**866-672-0662**

**IMEF Option #1**

**IMHG Option #2**

# **IMHG Newsletter**

*April 2004*



## **KVN Fun Day** **Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Jumpy, crafts, other activities & DINNER**  
**2 pm – 6 pm at Abby Reinke Center**  
**Come and meet other families with IMHG**  
**Please RSVP by May 8th 760-763-4785**

### **IMHG Families Literacy Foundation**

Want a video of your deployed Marine reading a book to your family?

Tell your marine to mention this program to his chaplain and he will be videotaped reading a book to your family, sending both the book and tape home to you.

Questions about this program please call 858-481-7323 or visit [www.read2kids.org](http://www.read2kids.org)



Jessica Reichert's husband and his new best friend over in Kuwait

\*I thought you would get a laugh out of this photo, it's our joke between us-a little humor until he comes home-God Bless\* Jessica Reichert-Newsletter Coordinator

### **Send In Photos From Your Marine Too:**

[crawfordl@i-mef.usmc.mil](mailto:crawfordl@i-mef.usmc.mil)

**Family Gram**  
**Camp Pendleton, CA**

Family, friends, and loved ones of I MEF Command Element (CE) and I MHG Marines and Sailors, I am Colonel Kauer, the Commanding Officer, I MHG, Camp Pendleton, back filling for Colonel Cummings, the Active Duty Commanding Officer, I MHG, who has deployed forward to Iraq with I MEF CE, I MHG and its subordinate units for the first rotation of Operation Iraqi Freedom-II. The mission of the Marines and Sailors of I MHG who have remained here at Camp Pendleton is first and foremost to support our Marines and Sailors deployed forward by providing reach back capability. Secondly, is to prepare our Marines and Sailors who will deploy for the second rotation of OIF-II-2. Thirdly, is to support you, the family, friends, and loved ones of our Marines and Sailors of who are or will be deployed. This third mission, although it may not sound important to some, is critical to I MEF and your Marine or Sailor being able to accomplish their mission and maintaining their focus. To accomplish this third mission, my staff and I utilize the Family Readiness Program and Key Volunteer Network to reach out to provide support and keep you informed. So please take advantage of what my staff and our Key Volunteers have to offer, and don't hesitate to call me, one of the members of my staff or one of our Key Volunteers if you have any questions, concerns or require some type of help or assistance.

One of the concerns, I am sure all of you have, that I would like to address in this first Newsletter of the OIF-II deployment, is "When is my Marine/Sailor going to come home?" First of all let me state that the Marine Corps is doing everything within its power to minimize the impact on Marines, Sailors and their families during this time of long and frequent deployments. Up to this point, unlike the other branches of the US Military, the Marine Corps has set a goal deployment schedule that will last no longer than seven months for OIF-II. No, we can't guarantee that your Marine or Sailor will return seven months after they deployed. For the most part we believe we will be able to accomplish this goal, with few exceptions. Presently Col Cummings is assessing the operational tempo for I MHG in Iraq, to determine who is needed forward to accomplish I MHG's mission. If in his assessment he determines he can afford to return Marines or Sailors to Camp Pendleton, he will do so. However, understand that these Marines and Sailors will probably be required to redeploy on the second rotation. Because of operational security there are things I cannot tell you concerning deployment and redeployment schedules, but I believe I have given you enough information to have a general idea on when you can expect our Marine or Sailor to return.

**Col. Darcy Kauer**  
**Commanding Officer, I MHG**

**What do you want to see in our newsletter?**

- Comments and/or questions
- Resources
- Deployment Tips
- Updates

Please submit ideas to [crawfordl@i-mef.usmc.mil](mailto:crawfordl@i-mef.usmc.mil)

**"Q & A?" Section**

**Pay questions?**

Refer to [mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx](http://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx)  
(Official web cite for military personnel)

- W2
- LES
- Pay

**\*CAUTION BE AWARE\*** There are many web cites that mimic the official cite, these are scams!  
(Ex: [mypay.com](http://mypay.com))

**Out of the area or planning to travel**

Call Tricare Medical to find out how to get medical treatment away from home.  
If in an emergency CALL TRICARE within 24 hours  
1-800-242-6788

Have questions? Ask Colonel Kauer.  
Submit to IMHG's KVC 760-763-4785  
[crawfordl@i-mef.usmc.mil](mailto:crawfordl@i-mef.usmc.mil)

## *Holy Week Schedule*

**For our Deployed Marines**

**Tuesday (April 6)**

Film: "The Passion of the Christ"

**Wednesday (April 7)**

Roman Catholic Mass

**Thursday (April 8)**

Roman Catholic Mass

Protestant Communion Service

**Good Friday (April 9)**

Roman Catholic Mass

Film: "The Passion of the Christ"

**Saturday (April 10)**

Roman Catholic Mass

Praise & Worship Service

**Easter Sunday (April 11)**

Easter Sunrise Service

Roman Catholic Mass

LDS Services

Protestant Service

Protestant Christian Service

Gospel Service

Roman Catholic Mass